

TOWN ADDRESS FOR 2010  
February 10, 2011

My descriptive overall words for “Happenings” in 2010 are many: Wonderful, Amazing, Remarkable, Notable, Outstanding, Fantastic, Magnificent, Unbelievable.

Let me begin with what I believe are our accomplishments for the year: The greatest achievements were our Sidewalk and Bikepath projects. Our engineering firm has just about completed the design and engineering work on Phase I of Broad Way Sidewalk, and is preparing to begin work on Phase II. Phase I work was accomplished with the help of an \$80,000 Grant from Community Development Block Grant Fund. When completed, the sidewalk will be constructed from the Community Center to the Town Square. Virginia Department of Transportation is nearly ready to go to Public Hearing on the Pedestrian and Bikepath Network on Berlin Pike. Construction will ultimately be from Lutheran Church Road to Tilgham Place, South to North, with Phase I being from the Welcome to Lovettsville Sign area to Town Center. Phase II will be from the area North of Town Center to Tilgham Place. Heritage Highlands will be building the section of the path in front of their Community as a result of a proffer agreement with the Town at the time their development was approved in 2003. Department of Environmental Quality finally issued a Certificate to Operate Module 3 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This will allow the Town to begin to sell new connections to our system. As a result of the Town operating under Consent Order from DEQ, we were required to address the Inflow and Infiltration problem, and we are proud to report that the work that was completed had a great effect on the system. Excessive flows into the plant were reduced considerably. We moved forward in the process of establishing a Historic District, with help from a Grant from

Virginia Department of Historic Resources in the amount of \$15,000. The initial work should be completed in June of this year. I would like to thank Mr. Ed Spannas for all of his hard work on this project. Germana Drive was brought up to VDOT standards, and the Town will be requesting that this street be accepted into the VDOT system. The Town supported the County Government on obtaining a Special Exception for the Lovettsville Community Park, and was successful on getting a Southern entrance into the Park from South Loudoun Street, through the Lovettsville Elementary School property, with support from Loudoun County Public Schools. Notwithstanding all of the huge projects and accomplishments mentioned above, we were proud to distribute another Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to the residents and businesses which stated our drinking water met all of the necessary standards imposed by Virginia Department of Health, and that we had no violations. I dedicated this great report to our very efficient Loudoun Water Operators.

Now, let me speak of the Blessed Events and Social Enjoyments we experienced month by month in 2010: In February, I asked that Vice Mayor Bob Zoldos share with us his duties with the Fairfax County Search and Rescue Team while working in Haiti during the earthquake. We remember the unbelievable scenes from his pictures and how dangerous their work must have been, how blessed that most of us have not experienced such a tragedy, and how thankful we are for Bob's safe return. In March, we recognized Chuck Blough, owner of Lovettsville Pizza and Subs for his donations and support of the students of Lovettsville Elementary School for the past ten years. Chuck was also recognized by the County of Loudoun for his generous contributions to our young people. In April, we celebrated Arbor Day by planting a tree and some shrubs in the Lovettsville Town Green, and recognized Daisy Troop 1434 for their efforts in cleaning up a portion of the Town on Earth Day. We also participated in Little League Baseball Day at the Elementary

School where teams from all over the County came to play. We supported the School and Community Center in the movie on the ball field that evening. (I was honored to throw out the first ball). In May, we began the annual six-month series of "Movies on the Green" or "Movies in the Park". The movies are held in cooperation with the Community Center, and last year for the first time, some of the movies were partially funded by several of the businesses and civic organizations. Also, in May, the Town held a well-attended Memorial Day Service in the Town Square with cooperation of the Lovettsville Fire and Rescue Company, both volunteer and career staff. June came with the ceremony at the Lovettsville Elementary School when we honored nine young ladies who had previously received recognition from the Loudoun Education Association and Loudoun County Public Schools in attaining "Excellence in Education". These ladies all began their education at Lovettsville Elementary School and graduated together with honors. The event was well attended by parents and friends and was followed by a nice reception. The July 3<sup>rd</sup> Festivities brought thousands of visitors to our Town for the annual parade, entertainment, and fireworks. This event is sponsored by the Lovettsville Community Center Advisory Board, and receives financial support from the Town. We also enjoyed our Town Picnic and Pool Party at the Community Center that month. National Night Out Against Crime was recognized by the Town, in cooperation with the Community Center in August. Food, games, and swimming were enjoyed by all who attended. We thanked Vanessa Mertz-Myers for her service to the Town as the Community Police Officer, and welcomed Deputy Baker as the new officer. The best Oktoberfest ever was held in September. Under the professional leadership of Councilman Scott Dockum, we enjoyed great entertainment, food and crafts. The 17<sup>th</sup> annual event was estimated to have brought 3000-4000 visitors to Lovettsville. The Festival began in 1993 to accentuate our German Heritage and has been publicized as one of the best in the area. In October, we officially welcomed Jason and Rebecca from Market

Table Bistro to our Town at their ribbon cutting and wished them much success in their new business. At our meeting that month, we recognized Lance Corporal Carl Christianson of the Shenandoah Young Marines who explained the significance of Red Ribbon Week and drug prevention. On November 11, we held a Veteran's Day Ceremony in the Town Square. Without a doubt, this ceremony was one of the most moving events I have ever had the honor of participation. First, we had so many veterans from all wars and branches of service in attendance who we honored for their service to our country. We had participation from the local ministers, a retired USMC Colonel who gave the address, the Lovettsville Elementary School Chorus, the volunteers and career staff of the Lovettsville Fire and Rescue Company, and the most moving of all were the remarks given our own Rob Jones, Corporal, USMC. Rob lost both legs in the summer in Afghanistan and came from Bethesda Naval Hospital to speak. He had also spoken at Loudoun Valley High School that morning. Rob added so much inspiration to the ceremony and we were all so blessed to hear those words from a gentleman who gave so much for our country. In November, we also adopted a resolution recognizing American Education Week, as we do each year. The ceremony was held at the Elementary School and the resolution was presented to Kim Fercino, Principal. Finally, in December, we hosted the Tree Lighting in the Town Square, in cooperation with the Community Center who sponsored the Lantern Parade. Even on a bitter cold night, we had a huge crowd that was led in song by Mrs. Stillman and the Elementary School Chorus. To repeat the words: Biggest and Best – that's all I can say. Bob, Scott, and Keith outdid everything that had ever been done before. Thanks guys for all you did to make that celebration a memorable one.

Some of the other things that should be mentioned from 2010 are: Park Benches, Picnic Tables, Trash Cans, Doggie Waste Stations were placed in the Park. Park Benches and Decorative Flags were placed in the Town Square. We borrowed money from VML/VaCo

in order to be able to actually construct the sidewalk on Broad Way instead of just doing the design and engineering work and shelving the plans. This loan is the first for the Town for projects such as this one. All other loans we have are for water and sewer projects. We worked with telecommunications companies who have antennas on our Water Tower, and companies who would like to locate there. We began the process of meeting with engineering firms for various ongoing projects. Much work was done by the Planning Commission and Committee Members on the Comprehensive Plan, and by the end of the year, the Plan was ready to move forward for Planning Commission Public Hearing. We had many Public Hearings with Planning Commission and Town Council regarding changes to our ordinances, and changes of use for some properties. We held many worksessions on the Budget for 2010-2011, and of course, a Public Hearing on the Tax Rate and Fee Schedules. We dressed up the Town Office with new carpet, new furniture and new paint, and added some pictures on the walls. This project was initiated by former Councilman DiJon Jones, so I dedicate the improvements to him, and thank him for the pictures he presented to us. And this list wouldn't be complete without mentioning that we survived the mega-snowstorms. I believe I remember hearing 56 inches from the three major storms. Again, we were blessed that we had no serious consequences from those storms.

Now, to speak of some important issues for 2011: SCHOOLS, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, BROAD WAY SIDEWALK, PEDESTRIAN AND BIKEPATH NETWORK, HERITAGE HIGHLANDS ZONING AND PROFFER CHANGES, ALLEGHENY POWER (PATH), TOWN CENTER, LOVETTSVILLE COMMUNITY PARK, ENGINEERING FIRMS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES, AND OF COURSE WATER AND SEWER IMPROVEMENTS. So you can see we have much work ahead of us, and I just touched lightly on some things that I am certain will be before us soon. I'm sure at

the end of this year, we will have had to take care of issues that I did not mention. We can always plan as best we can for what we think may occur, but the "unknown" is always there. We are beginning to see things happen and are beginning to make things happen. The Sidewalk Project is moving ahead because of the vote of the Council to borrow the money to build it. The Bikepath has been on the table for more than fifteen years and is moving ahead more rapidly than ever. Our borrowed money can help that project also. Our position regarding Schools remains the same as always: Whenever the School Board selects a site and presents that site to the Board of Supervisors for approval, we will be contacted for comment. Meanwhile, I will continue to meet with the Boards, when invited, to answer questions and provide assistance whenever possible. I will continue to keep the Town Council informed in Closed Session. The Town Center Commercial/Retail build sounds promising for this year, and I know we all look forward to that project moving forward. I will continue to work with the County on the PATH issue, and will continue to keep you informed. I will be reporting later this evening on my attendance last week at the State Corporation Commission Hearing. Plans for the Lovettsville Community Park are continuing to move forward and I am meeting with Parks and Recreation almost every month. Hopefully, we will see some events happening on the parkland this year.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening, and I am confident we will accomplish great things as we work together to make 2011 the best year ever.

Elaine Walker  
Mayor